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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Uruguay	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Fortieth Anniversary Celebration at San Javier, Uruguay 25X1A	DATE DISTR.	17 September 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT NO.	
		REFERENCES	25X1

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THE ☐ EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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1. On 27 July 1953 the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Colonia San Javier, agricultural district in the Department of Rio Negro settled by Russian immigrants, was held at the colony. The celebration was organized by the pro-Communists, with the Centro Cultural Maximo Gorki (CCMG) of San Javier as the principal sponsor.
2. The colony was originally settled in 1913 by a religious sect known as "New Israel" which had been persecuted under the Czarist regime by the Russian Orthodox Church. At present there are about 3,000 persons, including a number of descendants of the original settlers, living in the area. Others have migrated to Montevideo or to agricultural areas in the interior.
3. The area is used for the cultivation of wheat, sunflower seed, and flax. Because of the lack of money for replenishing the soil, the land is not considered as productive as it was in the earlier years. The group has a co-operative marketing system, but land is owned by individual members.
4. The colonists have been subjected during the last 20 or more years to a continued and growing Communist influence. Because of their failure to be assimilated into the Uruguayan community and the lack of anti-Communist sentiment, the group has turned to the Communist-sponsored organization for social and cultural outlets. During recent years the Soviet Legation in Montevideo has taken a great interest in the colony and its members, and the Legation officers have been reported visiting there from time to time. The Union Eslava (UE), with which the CCMG is affiliated, also maintains a close relationship with the San Javier colonists.

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- 2 -

5. The principal function during the anniversary celebration was a commemorative program held at the Cine Teatro Pobieda, under the auspices of the CCMG. The program was organized by Valentin Benenstein, of the UE in Montevideo, who went to San Javier on 20 July to arrange the function. Victoria Tomina, well-known Communist dance instructor, was in charge of a chorus and dance group that provided entertainment. A number of persons from Montevideo and towns in the interior joined the San Javier residents for the celebration.

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